

Misleading Graphs B

1. The Minister for Public Safety would be keen to be able to show that crime has decreased. The scale used in Figure 4 shows a steeper slope which is usually associated with a more rapid change.

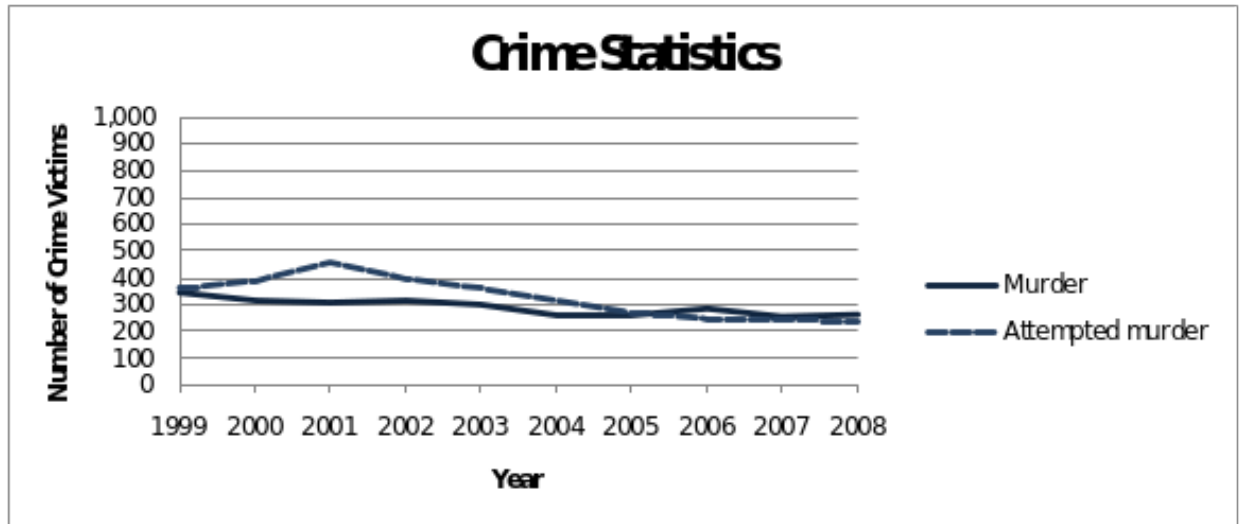


Figure 3: Incidence of Murder and Attempted Murder

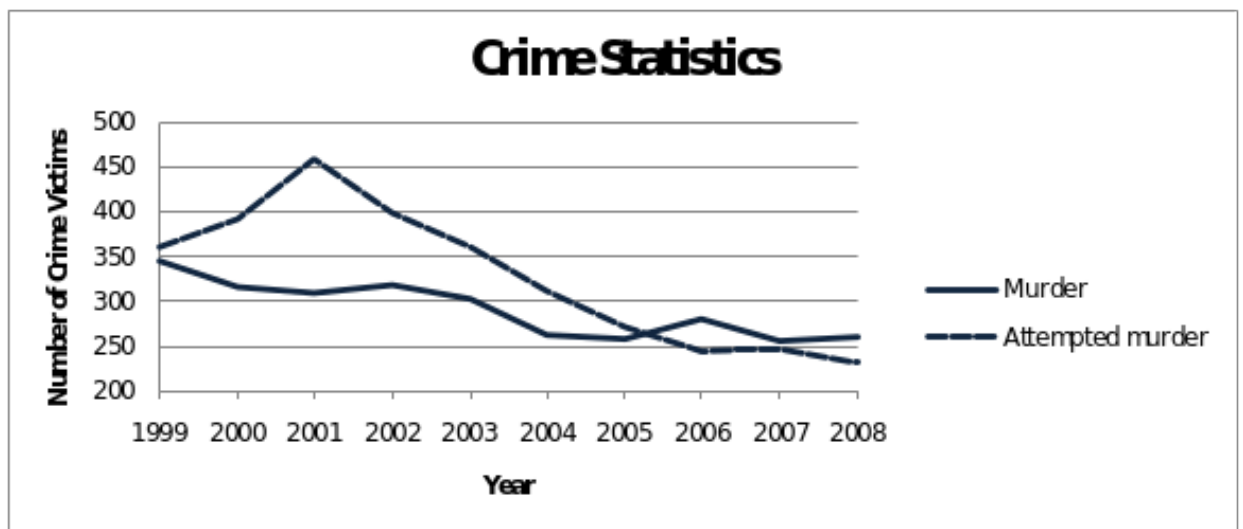


Figure 4: Incidence of Murder and Attempted Murder

2. Citizens for a Greater Police Presence would prefer to use a scale that compresses the horizontal axis so that the rise in crime appears sharper. Expanding the scale on the vertical axis by using 250 as the minimum value makes the difference between the 1999 blackmail figure and the 2008 figure also seem greater. This would be more likely to support their claim for the need for more police.

Date: _____

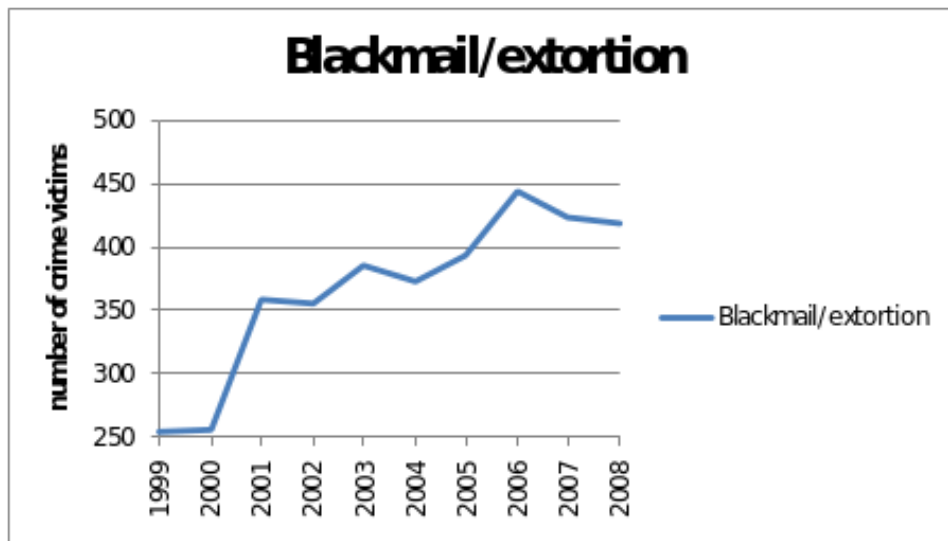


FIGURE 5: Incidence of Blackmail and Extortion

The Minister for Public Safety would prefer a scale which appears to stretch out the scale on the horizontal axis so that it appears that the increase has not been a sharp one. By compressing the vertical axis and starting at 0, the difference between the 1999 and 2008 values do not seem as great because they are seen as part of a larger range. This would support a view that the police were doing a reasonable job.

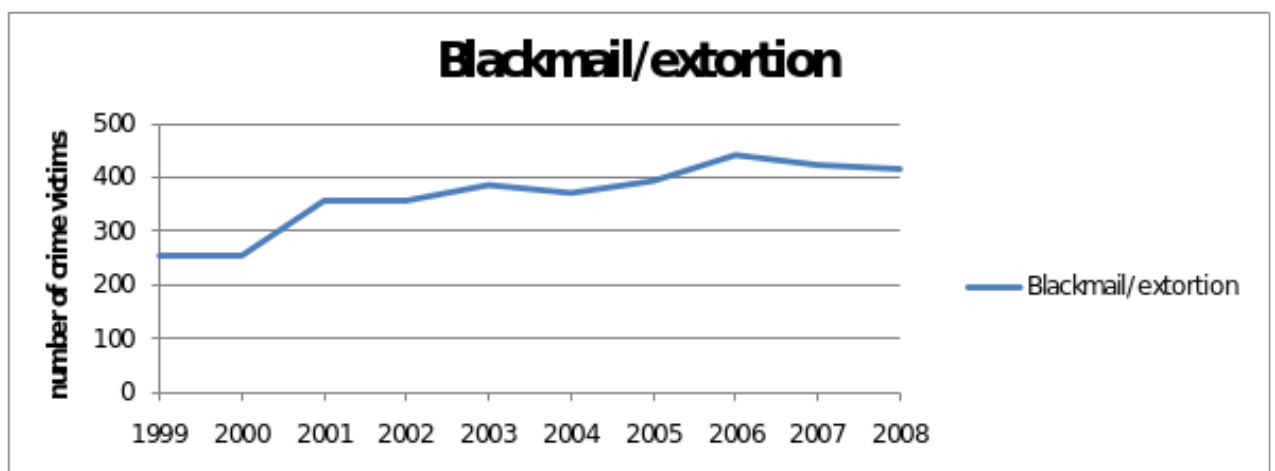


FIGURE 6: Incidence of Blackmail and Extortion